FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 311

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR EMERY.

Read 1st time January 26, 2015, and ordered printed.

1386S.01I

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to religious student groups at public institutions of higher education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new 2 section, to be known as section 173.004, to read as follows:

173.004. 1. No public institution of higher education shall take any action or enforce any policy that would deny a religious student group any benefit available to any other student group based on the religious student group's requirement that its leaders or members adhere to its sincerely held religious beliefs or standards of conduct.

- 6 2. For purposes of this section, the following terms shall mean:
- 7 (1) "Benefits", including, but not limited to:
- 8 (a) Recognition;
- 9 **(b)** Registration;
- 10 (c) The use of facilities of the public institution of higher 11 education for meetings or speaking purposes;
- 12 (d) The use of channels of communication of the public 13 institution of higher education;
- 14 (e) Funding sources that are otherwise available to any other 15 student group in the public institution of higher education;
- 16 (2) "Public institution of higher education", any college or 17 university established pursuant to chapter 172, chapter 174, chapter 18 175, sections 178.631 to 178.640, or sections 178.770 to 178.891.